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Vol. XL No. 2 February, 1980

35 ..... **The Development of the Irish Volunteers 1916-1922 Part 1**
Risteard Mulcahy, M.D. F.R.C.P. F.R.C.I.

42 ..... **Milan Anti-tank Missile**
Capt. R. Quinn, Arty. School

44 ..... **Orienteering**
Capt. W. Young, Military College

46 ..... **A New Sport for the PDF? .22 Rifle Shooting**
Cpl. J. R. Enright

53 ..... **Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the Army, No. 7**
Denis J. McCarthy

57 ..... **CAOGA into the 80's**
Comdt. P. Redmond

59 ..... **What the Papers Notice**

61 ..... **Letter to the Editor**

62 ..... **Book Reviews**

Cover: Irish Life Award winners. From left: Lts. J. Roche, D. Foster, Capt. J. Mullins with the O.C. Equitation School, Col. W. A. Ringrose and Capt. A. Woulfe, Irish Equestrian Federation.

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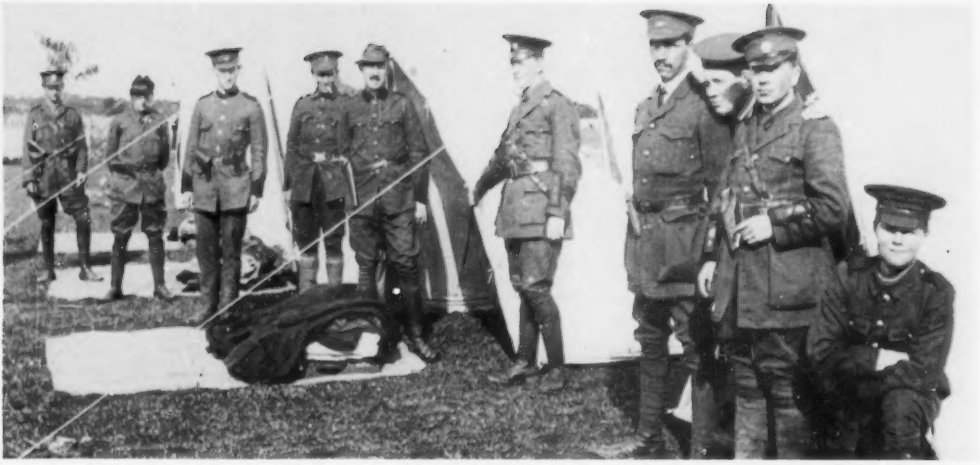

Volunteer Camp at Coosan, Athlone, 1915.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS 1916-1922
PART I

RISTEARD MULCAHY MD FRCP FRCPI*

This paper deals with the evolution of the Irish Volunteer Movement during the six-year period starting after the Rebellion of 1916 and ending with the Truce and the ratification of the Treaty by Dail Eireann in January 1922. My material is almost entirely based on my father's papers and on conversations which I and many others had with him and which were recorded on tape and subsequently transcribed. The material reflects in particular his experience and point of view and the experience and point of view of the General Headquarters Staff during the revolutionary period.

Richard Mulcahy was born in Waterford in June 1886. He joined the Teeling branch of the IRB in 1907 and he joined the Irish Volunteers at the Rotunda Meeting in 1913. He fought with Ashe and the Fingal Brigade in 1916. After returning from Frongoch at Christmas 1916 he became OC of the 2nd Battalion of the Dublin Brigade and subsequently, in the summer of 1917, OC of the Dublin Brigade. He was appointed Director of Training at the Volunteer Convention in October 1917 and he was appointed Chief of Staff by the National Executive of the Volunteers in March 1918. He held this position until the ratification of the Treaty in 1921.

He was Minister for Defence in the first Dail Cabinet from January to April 1919 and subsequently he was appointed Assistant Minister for Defence to Cathal Brugha until the ratification of the Treaty.

He was a careful collector of papers and documents. His earlier Chief of Staff papers were captured during a British raid on Harcourt Street in November 1920 and these are probably lodged in some military headquarters in England. His papers covering the later period of the War of Independence and the Civil War are now lodged in the Archives of University College Dublin and this collection also contains the transcriptions of conversations he had with many people after his retirement from politics in 1960. He died in December 1971.

IT is quite clear from reading my father's papers that we must await the writing of a definitive military history of the Independence Movement. Piaras Beaslai's book on Collins (1), published in 1926, has been the main source material for subsequent writers on military affairs but, whilst Beaslai has portrayed in very great detail the highly important role that Collins played in the military and political affairs of the times and whilst he has given valuable details about the Collins organisation and the people who surrounded him, he had neither the qualifications nor was it his purpose or intention to write a comprehensive history of the revolutionary Army. We need to know more about the personnel and logistics of the Army, about its organisation and development, both in Dublin and in the country, and about the relationship between the Army leaders and the divisions, brigades and active units in Dublin and throughout the country. We also need to know more about the policy of the Army in relation to defence and aggression, and about the relations between the Army and the civil authority of Sinn Fein.

I believe that the Mulcahy papers will assist us in understanding many details of personnel, organisation and policy, and will help to clarify the relationship between the Army and the Civil Government.

Except for those who lived through the period and those who are very familiar with the documents

* This paper was read to **THE IRISH MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY**, November 9th, 1978.

The Coosan Camp, Athlone September 1915 when the third and last of three camps was held that year for the training of Volunteer officers. Identified above are L. to R: William Mullins, Tralee; Richard Mulcahy, Dublin; Sean Lester, Dublin; Unidentified; Donal Barrett, Cork; Terence McSwiney, Cork; John Griffin, Castleisland; Liam Langley, Tuam; Pierse McCann, Tipperary and Austin Stack, Tralee.

of the time, the events of the five years from 1916 to 1921 are difficult to comprehend. Most of the literature of the period was written from a personal standpoint and was often influenced by prejudices and interpersonal conflicts arising during and after the Civil War. Other literature is of local or regional interest and throws little light on the central organisation of the Volunteers.

The relation of events to each other and clear chronological insights are not made easy by the many different political, social and military forces which existed, and by external factors such as the Great War and its aftermath, and the British and international involvement with Irish affairs. To facilitate an understanding of the period it is necessary to bear in mind a number of crucial dates and events. These provide an opportunity of presenting data in a form and a sequence which may be clear to the reader.

The events are:

1. *End of 1916 rebellion and the deportation of the prisoners to Frongoch and elsewhere, May 1916.*
2. *The return of Frongoch prisoners, Christmas 1916.*
3. *Return of leaders from Lewes, June 1917.*
4. *Ashe's death on hunger strike, September 26th, 1917.*
5. *Sinn Fein Convention 25th/26th October 1917.*
6. *Volunteer Convention, 27th October 1917.*
7. *Conscription threat and formation of General Headquarters Staff, March 1918.*
8. *General Election and first Dail, December 1918-January 1919.*
9. *Suppression of Dail, September 1919.*
10. *Truce July 1921.*
11. *Ratification of Treaty, January 1922.*

The volunteers were clearly in disarray after the 1916 Rebellion. The Dublin Volunteers were mostly in prison or concentration camps whilst the country people were demoralised and, indeed, some of them were humiliated by their failure to take part in the Rising. For these reasons, and perhaps because there was as yet no clear impression of the public's reaction to the events of the Rising, there was no overt Volunteer activity. After the return of the prisoners from Frongoch in December 1916 there was some local activity and some reconstruction of battalions and brigades, but in fact these activities were more in the nature of informal meetings and personal contacts and reunions. There was little evidence of formal organisation and there was no central direction or leadership.

As an illustration of the relatively dormant state of the Army, Mulcahy states that he became OC of C Company of the 2nd Battalion in January 1917 on his return from Frongoch, that he became OC of the 2nd Battalion a few weeks later, but that this did not prevent his spending the five months from March to July of that year in West Cork where he was doing organisational work on behalf of the Gaelic League.

There was some Volunteer activity at the North Roscommon Bye-Election in February 1917 and the South Longford Bye-Election in May where the Volunteers assisted Sinn Fein in election and propaganda work. The Volunteers in Clare began to drill, to wear uniform, to carry arms and to adopt an open military posture immediately after the successful Clare Bye-Election in July 1917. This subsequently led to a British reaction with the imprisonment of the Clare military leaders.

Irish prisoners leaving Knutsford in Frongoch 1916 led by Denis McCullough.

Despite these isolated appearances of the Volunteers and despite the renewed Volunteer organisation in Dublin in September 1917 on the occasion of the Ashe funeral, it can be said that the Volunteer Force was not formally reconstituted until the Volunteer Convention of October 1917. This Convention followed immediately after the Sinn Fein Convention of October 25th and 26th.

Four influences in particular led to the success of the Convention and to the formal reorganisation of the Volunteers. Firstly, one must refer to the unity of spirit and purpose which developed amongst the men at Frongoch and in the other British prisons, and to the great fillip given to the revival of the Movement by their return to Ireland at Christmas 1916 and in June 1917, and by the warm reception they received from the people.

Secondly, some of those left behind in Ireland stimulated a revival of interest in the IRB with the object of its reorganisation. I refer in particular to Diarmuid O'Hegarty and Sean O'Muirthuile. Their efforts culminated in a meeting in the Minerva Hotel in Parnell Square in the summer of 1916 under cover of the Gaelic League Ard Fheis. O'Hegarty, O'Muirthuile, Pat McCartan, Martin Conlon, Seamus O'Doherty, Peadar Kearney, Luke Kennedy, Greg Murphy and others established a provisional Supreme Council and reviewed the IRB constitution. Obviously this development was an important factor in the subsequent military revival and was strengthened by the support of Ashe, Collins, Staines and Diarmuid Lynch after their return from English imprisonment.

Thirdly, O'Muirthuile and O'Hegarty acquainted Cathal Brugha with their plans. He encouraged them to make all possible contact with the Volunteers with the object of reorganisation. In November 1916 at Fleming's Hotel in Gardiner Street, Cathal Brugha, still on crutches after his 1916 wounds, chaired a meeting of about 50 people representing the Volunteers from all parts of the country. This was followed in early August of 1917, after the return of the Lewes prisoners, by a meeting of about 10 people including Ashe, Dev, Brugha, Collins, Mulcahy, O'Hegarty, Staines, and probably Diarmuid Lynch, Gearoid O'Sullivan and W. M. O'Reilly. It was at this meeting that a proposal was made that the Volunteers should hold a National Convention of reorganisation in association with the Sinn Fein Convention planned for the end of October.

Fourthly, Ashe's death and funeral played a significant part in quickening the reorganisation of the Army. I stated earlier that there had been some revival of the Dublin Battalions after the return of the Frongoch prisoners, but the elaborate organisation of the Ashe funeral, particularly on the military side, brought the four Dublin Battalions and the Fingal men together again. Mulcahy was in charge of the military organisation at the Ashe funeral and his responsibilities here led to his appointment as OC of the Dublin Brigade. The public reaction to Ashe's death as a result of hunger strike and forced feeding and the impact of his death on the Volunteers was a major factor in the new resurgence. In the words of Mulcahy, the death of Ashe transformed a bewildered political and military situation into an effective and cohesive national movement.

The Volunteer Convention was significant for a number of reasons:

Firstly, it provided formal control and leadership of the Army through the election of De Valera as President of the Volunteers, through the election of a national controlling executive with representatives from the four provinces, through the appointment of a resident executive for the day-to-day running of the Army, and through the appointment of a number of directors with responsibility for organisation, supplies, training, engineering and intelligence.

Secondly, the fact that the new National Executive of Sinn Fein and the National Executive of the Volunteers shared many members and that De Valera was elected President of both bodies finally marked the end of the Irish Volunteers previous apolitical role. Of course this had happened in a more informal way through the Volunteers participation in the three bye-elections earlier in 1917.

Thirdly, the Sinn Fein and Volunteer Conventions ended any possible friction which may have arisen because of disagreements and misunderstandings which arose at the time of the Rising.

Finally, the Convention marked the end of Redmond's National Volunteers which anyhow had largely atrophied by this time.

From October 1917 until March 1918, when the General Headquarters Staff was set up, the Resident Executive of the Army was actively engaged in the reorganisation of the Volunteers. Its Chairman was Cathal Brugha and the members included Diarmuid Lynch, Director of Communications; Michael Collins, Director of Organisation; Richard Mulcahy, Director of Training; Eamon Euggan, Director of Intelligence; Rory O'Connor, Director of Engineering; Michael Staines, Director of Supplies and Sean McGarry, Secretary of the Executive.

In March 1918 the threat of conscription led to the setting up of the GHQ Staff and to a determination on the part of the National Executive to reorganise the army on more formal lines to resist the conscription measures. Mulcahy's appointment as Chief of Staff was decided by the Directors of the Resident Executive and ratified by the National Executive of the Volunteers. Other appointments were Michael Collins, Adjutant General and Director of Intelligence; Dick McKee, Director of Training and OC Dublin Brigade; Rory O'Connor, Director of Engineering, Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Director of Organisation and Sean McMahon QMG. Austin Stack was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff at the request of Mulcahy but in fact he never joined the Staff nor did he get involved subsequently with the military side of the movement.

The increasing work and influence of the GHQ Staff inevitably led to an increase in its membership. By the spring of 1921 there were 13 men on the Staff.

Rory O'Connor later had the added title of OC Britain. Diarmuid O'Hegarty relinquished the position of Director of Organisation to Price in 1919 when O'Hegarty became Secretary to the first Dail. In the summer of 1919 Gearoid O'Sullivan took over as Adjutant General from Collins as Collins's political and Intelligence roles expanded.

Beaslai joined the Staff as Editor of *An t-Oglach*. J. J. O'Connell was closely associated with the Staff from March 1918 and subsequently joined it as Assistant Chief of Staff. O'Connell was active in the Dublin Brigade and he wrote copiously for *An t-Oglach* on operations and training under the title of Chief of Staff. Others who joined the Staff before the Truce in July 1921 were Owen O'Duffy (Deputy Chief of Staff) Sean Russell (Director of Munitions), Emmet Dalton, who took over as Director of Training after the death of Dick McKee in November 1920, James O'Donovan (Director of Chemicals) and Liam Mellowes (director of Purchases). O'Duffy, Russell, Dalton, O'Donovan and Mellowes were appointed to the Staff during the six months before the Truce when a considerable increase in the activity and influence of the Staff must have occurred.

The membership of the General Headquarters Staff at the time of the Truce in July 1921 has been recorded for posterity in the painting by Leo Whelan which is presently in the National Gallery. The list of members reads as follows:

Richard Mulcahy, Commander-in-Chief 1922.

Richard Mulcahy (Chief of Staff)
Michael Collins (Director of Intelligence)
Gearoid O'Sullivan (Adjutant General)
Eamon Price (Director of Organisation)
Rory O'Connor (Director of Engineering and OC Britain)
Owen O'Duffy (Deputy Chief of Staff)
Sean Russell (Director of Munitions)
Sean McMahon (Quartermaster General)
Jeremiah J. O'Connell (Assistant Chief of Staff)
Emmet Dalton (Director of Training)
Seamus O'Donovan (Director of Chemicals)
Liam Mellowes (Director of Purchases)
Piarais Beaslai (Director of An t-Oglach).

It is difficult to identify with certainty the full personnel of the GHQ Staff during the interim period from its inception in March 1918 to the end of 1920, despite a careful examination of the papers available in the archives. Nevertheless, the above appears to be a fairly complete account of the personnel of the Staff. It is possible but by no means certain that the recovery of the earlier Mulcahy papers and of other documents from the various military headquarters in Britain might be useful for further research in this area.

Each member of the GHQ Staff had his own particular responsibilities of a full-time nature but it is clear that there was considerable over-lapping in their work and in their contact with the Army in the field. The circumstances of the time made it impossible to set up separate departments in a

This picture by Leo Whelan, R.H.A. was exhibited at the Academy in 1946. It was painted from individual portraits done by the artist. Seated from left: Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence; Richard Mulcahy, Chief of Staff; Gearoid O'Sullivan, Adjutant General; Eamonn Price, Director of Organisation; Rory O'Connor, Director of Engineering; Eoin O'Duffy, Deputy Chief of Staff; Sean Russell, Director of Munitions and Sean McMahon, Q.M.G. Standing: J. J. O'Connell, Assistant Chief of Staff; Emmet Dalton, Director of Training; Seamus O'Donovan, Director of Chemicals; Liam Mellowes, Director of Purchases and Piaras Beaslai, Editor of *An tOglach*.

formal way, although by the spring of 1921 the different departments were clearly enough identified and demarcated to send in their own separate monthly accounts to the Chief of Staff's Department. These accounts are now available in the University archives.

Mulcahy refers to the excellent spirit which existed within the GHQ Staff. There was never the slightest disagreement and the work dovetailed and interlocked in a satisfactory way -

'no suspicions, no withdrawings, no waste of time.'

In particular he writes about the close relationship between himself and Collins. In his characteristically conversational, almost poetic style he writes -

'I opened and kept open for him all the doors and pathways that he wanted to travel - our relations were always harmonious and frank and we didn't exchange unnecessary information. We each knew what the other was at and in particular in his domain of intelligence - I had no occasion to be questioning him. Over many matters we exercised a constructive and practical Cistercian silence.'

As regards their specific roles on the Staff he writes that Collins was in full control of intelligence work which started long before the setting up of the GHQ Staff when Broy first contacted him indirectly in the summer of 1917. Mulcahy says -

'Collins dealt particularly with the aggressive activities of urgent and spot intelligence in relation to enemy activity.'

More than once he refers to Collins's enormous capacity for work, his genius for organisation and his ability to stimulate others. He states that, as regards work outside Dublin or largescale work of any sort, there was the closest possible consultation between himself and Collins.

(to be continued)

1. *Michael Collins and the making of a new Ireland*. Piaras Beaslai. Talbot Press. Dublin, 1926.

Comdt. James Coughlan 1922.

A TYPICAL VOLUNTEER

THIS is a short biography of a man who was a founder member of our Army. He is not unique, just typical of the many thousands who joined up in 1922.

James Coughlan was born in Booterstown, Co. Dublin in 1902. He attended the local schools and having completed his education was apprenticed as a Motor Mechanic with Messrs. Breens, Donnybrook. The firm is still in business.

As part of his trade he learned to drive a car and a motor cycle. This is mentioned because in 1919 men with such skills were rare. One officer who later became Director, S & T told me that in 1922 he was sent from Keogh Barracks to Beggars Bush to collect a Crossley tender and was ashamed to admit that he could not drive, he collected the tender and managed, with many stops and starts to get it back to Keogh Barracks.

Coughlan joined the Volunteers on 18th November 1919 at Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Officers of the 20th Bn. at Carlingford in August 1922. Front L. to R: Comdt. T. MacNeill; Capt. Bergin; Lt. Fogarty; Back: Capts. Fitzgerald and Coughlan; Lt. J. Goodwin; Capt. Clancy.

His Unit was 3rd Battalion, Dublin Brigade, his first Commanding Officer was Noel Lemass and subsequently Liam Chadwick and later still John Harold.

He was used extensively as a Dispatch Rider as his employer had a permit from the Dublin Metropolitan Police for a motor cycle which Coughlan used for journeys to and from various Unit Headquarters all over Dublin.

It states on his Certificate of Service that he took part in all operations of the 3rd Battalion, these included an ambush of a party of "Black and Tans" at Merrion Gates and in Mount Street on "Bloody Sunday".

His brother, Con also took part in the operations on "Bloody Sunday".*

In July 1921 he was promoted Lieutenant and posted to D Company, 6th Battalion, Dublin Brigade.

In April 1922 he joined the National Army at Clonskea Castle, was commissioned as a Captain in charge of Brigade Transport.

Later he was appointed OC D Company, 20th Battalion, Dublin Command. This Unit was largely made up of men from the Carlow Brigade.

The Unit saw considerable active service around Dundalk.

His commission was withdrawn in December 1923 at the end of the Civil War and he received a gratuity of £100 and later still was awarded a full pension under the 1924 Act. This pension was applied for in 1924 but was not granted until 1927, back dated, of course. Civil Servants were slow in those days.

On leaving the Army he emigrated to the Argentine and joined the large Irish colony there. Returning to Dublin in 1928, he married and settled down to his trade and married life.

Now living in retirement not far from his birth place he is a modest and shy man. His like should not be forgotten, not many of his comrades remain and we, who came after them owe them a lot. They were the rock on which this State was founded.

** Captain Con Coughlan rejoined the Army in 1940 and became Adjutant, 25th Infantry Battalion, 5th Brigade. He died early in 1979.*

John Meehan, Captain (Retd.)

SOCCER STAR

The present season has been extremely good to Galway Rovers with an amazing record of 11 unbeaten matches up to a fortnight ago when they lost 3 - 1 to Finn Harps. The previous weekend against Shelbourne was an example of the vast improvement Rovers have made since last season with the score an impressive 4 - 2 in their favour. It

Capt. Kieran McDaid. (Photo: Sgt. M. Parslowe)

can certainly be said that the new Galway Rovers image is due in some part to the determined leadership of Capt. Kieran McDaid - team skipper since the beginning of the season.

Capt. McDaid was born in 1953 in Ramelton, Co. Donegal, although he has lived most of his life in Askeaton, Co. Limerick. He played football for St. Munchin's College, Limerick and for St. Mary's Secondary School, Askeaton. In 1973 Kieran joined the Cadets and played both soccer and Gaelic for the Cadet School, to many an opposing sides dismay!

1974 saw Capt. McDaid in U.C.G. studying for his B.A. Degree and still finding time to display incisive style and determination on the college football fields. Capt. McDaid was thereafter commissioned into the 1 Cath Cois in Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa where he still serves.

In 1977 he joined Galway Rovers and has played in a variety of positions although his favourite is full back.

This season Kieran was made team Captain and, coincidentally, Galway Rovers fortunes took an enormous leap up the League table. At the moment they are lying in fifth position and Capt. McDaid hopes that they can do better still. He puts the team success down to "fitness, determination and good team organisation". Capt. McDaid, married with two children, comes from a sporting family. His father was Captain of Swilly Rovers in the 1950's when they won the FAI Junior Cup and his brother, Declan, has played for NIHE Limerick, while Fergus played for Cork Celtic and Enda has played under-21 football for Limerick.

D. O'C.

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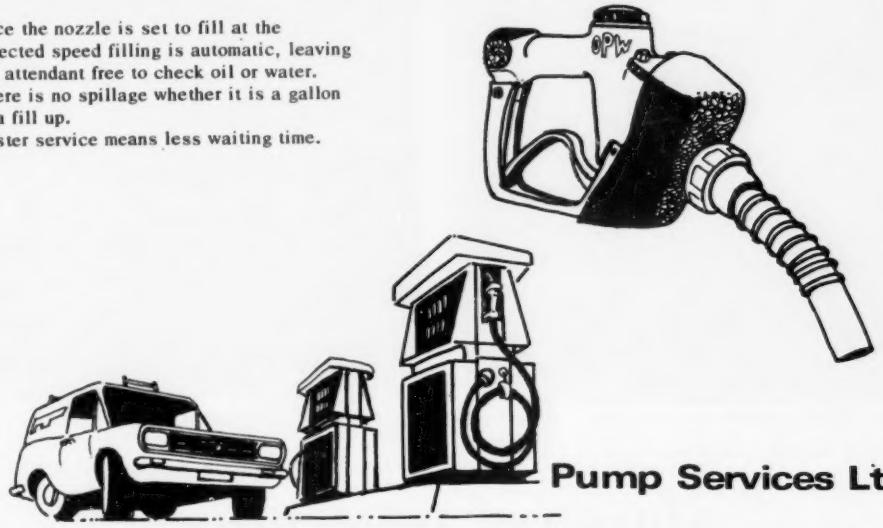

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THE DEFENCE FORCES

Students of the Milan Missile Operators Course (3 weeks) Front L. to R: Cpl. J. Murphy, Sgt. P. Devereux, Lt. S. McDermott. Back: Sgt. P. McHugh, Lt. D. Brown and Sgt. M. Page. (photo: Comdt. P. Walshe).

Preparing to launch Jean-Jacque Proust (Euro Missile) with Lt. S. McDermott and Sgt. P. Devereux. (Photo: Comdt. P. Walshe).

Milan Anti-Tank Missile

Capt. R. Quinn
Arty. School

THE Defence Forces entered the Guided Missile Age on the 19 December last when a training course from the Artillery School demonstrated one of our newly acquired equipments - The Milan Anti Tank Guided Missile to a large gathering of Army and News Media personnel.

Milan is a second generation missile and does not require manual guidance on to a target by means of a joystick or Azimuth/Elevation button as did earlier missiles such as:-

Sagger (USSR)
Swingfire (UK)
Bantam (Sweden)

With Milan the Operator trains his Sight Reticule at the target and launches the missile. On firing, an infra red tracer is ignited at the rear of the missile. An electronic guidance system on the launch ramp detects any deviation between the missile's flight path and the line of sight to the target. Guidance corrections onto the line of sight are transmitted to the missile through a spool of wire that is unreeled behind it on launching. Thus once the Operator keeps his sight trained on the target the missile is automatically slaved onto the line of sight and will strike its objective.

In comparison with previously developed missiles the simplicity of the Milan sighting system ensures a high hit probability in combat and markedly reduces training time and cost. This was evident at the firing demonstration when all students achieved a 100% success rate on their allotted targets. It is worth noting that none of the students had any previous experience of missile firing and that their only training before the demonstration was on a classroom simulator.

Due to it's light weight in relation to comparable missiles Milan can be rapidly deployed from a Light Helicopter or vehicle. A team can deploy and launch 2 missiles within 50 seconds. In the dismounted position it is unnecessary to prepare a weapon site and a large obstacle free area rearward is not mandatory as is the case with our existing recoiless weapons. In a critical situation Milan may be shoulder launched from the standing position at a close target. The missile launcher can also be mounted on a light vehicle or APC if so desired.

Euro Missile (The Franco-German firm who produce Milan) are developing a thermal imaging sight to enable missile launching to be carried out in any condition of weather or visibility. Thermal Imagery is also an excellent aid to AFV recognition. Despite the absence of a night sight on our inventory the Artillery School intend firing practice missiles in darkness with the aid of Mortar Illumination in the near future to complete the instructor's training.

The Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. C. O'Su'llivan arriving for the Demonstration in the Glen of Imaal with the GOC Curragh Command Brig. Gen. D. Hurley and Director of Artillery, Col. T. McDunphy. (Photo: Cpl. J. O'Brien).

The allocation of Milan to the Artillery School for instruction was wholeheartedly welcomed by the Staff and enhanced their hope that the Guided Weapons Section as planned will shortly become a reality. It is perhaps ironic that the best countermeasure to guided missiles is High Explosive or Smoke Shells fired by Artillery. We may soon have a situation whereby missile operators (surface to air and surface to surface) are being trained in the Guided Weapons Section of the School while simultaneously Gunners are undergoing instruction in the Field Artillery and in the Survey and Counter Bombardment Sections to combat such missiles, all in the interest of supporting our Infantry and Cavalry Comrades.

T. SCULLY

Watchmaker - Jeweller

WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT RINGS
PRESENTATIONS, SPORTS TROPHIES

96a RANELAGH, DUBLIN 6

Capt. R. Quinn, Instructor Artillery School Magee Barracks being interviewed by Tom McCaughren RTE about the missile. (Photo: Cpl. J. O'Brien).

Milan Technical Information:

Min. Range75 metres Max. Range 2,000 mtrs
Projectile H.E.A.T.
*Penetration - Steel2 ft.**

*Penetration - Concrete7.5 ft.**

** Dependant on angle of impact.*

Lt. D. Brown (Firer) at the Steel Plate Target (Dimension 1m x 1m) engaged at a range of 1150m. (Photo: Comdt. P. Walshe).

HAPPY DAYS:

If you haven't already detected it, I feel I lead the happy life. Do I miss the Marine Corps? YOU BET I DO! What I miss, however, is being a company commander or battalion commander. I certainly don't miss wearing a uniform behind a desk, shuffling papers and meeting artificial deadlines for deadlines' sake. What I really miss is being 30 or 35 years old, and I know that that is not to be. Facing that reality makes it a whole lot easier to adjust one's ego to a life style of contentment and enjoyment.

MARINE CORPS GAZETTE, U.S.

ORIENTEERING

Capt. W. Young
Military College

THE seventies saw the introduction and development of orienteering in Ireland. The army was involved in this development from the very beginning, however, it was 1975 before our first All-Army competition was organised. At that time it was generally felt that the sport, like most adventure sports, was of particular benefit to military personnel. It had four elements which were of interest and value: map reading, compass use, physical training and decision making while under stress.

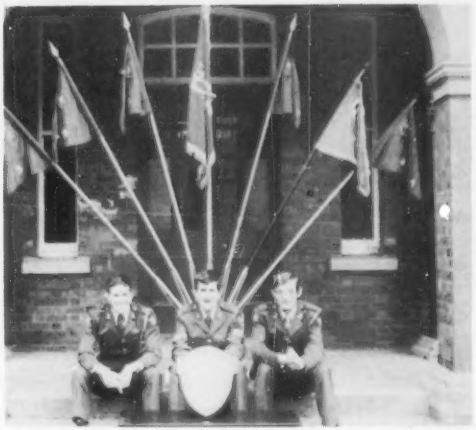
Since 1975, All Army championships have been held each year, as well as competitions at Unit, Brigade and Command level. The competitions are so designed that personnel of all age groups and ability have an opportunity to compete at their own level. The competitions are divided into four categories: novice, junior, senior and over 35s.

The sport involves not alone competition, but also the time consuming practise of making orienteering maps. In this respect military personnel have contributed considerably since 1975, notably Sgt. Pat Nash, Comdt. Bertie Kelly, Comdt. Harry Quirke and Capt. Pat Healy in particular.

It is fair to say that progress has been very satisfactory, four civilian clubs have been formed by military personnel at The Curragh, Cork, Dublin and Kilkenny. Military personnel have actively involved themselves in the sport on a civilian as well as a military basis. The positions of Chairman, Training officer, Treasurer and Secretary of the National Association have been held by military personnel at different times. Army clubs have organised two National championships and numerous civilian events as well as organising all of their own competitions.

The most pleasing aspect of the sport, and probably where its real success lies, is that people of all standards and age groups can compete with satisfaction. This can be said of most adventure sports. My first appointment in 1971 was in the Fourth Battalion and there I noticed something which probably applied to most units - the same group of people represented the unit at most sports, gaelic football, soccer, hurling, volleyball with even a slight overlap onto the cross country and athletic teams. No-one could be blamed for this, a small percentage of people seem to have a natural aptitude for ball games, therefore in a unit where only these traditional games are played, the majority become permanent spectators.

Orienteering like most adventure sports has provided an interesting and valuable outlet for the majority. One cannot hide the fact that stiff competition and winning are still important in the sport; however, they do not have the same glamour and finality as in other sports.



All Army Relay champions 1979, 3 Inf. Bn. Capt. R. Maguire, Cpl. M. Doyle and Capt. P. Healy.

It is easy to predict that orienteering will continue to flourish in the 1980's. In this country the sport has one major limitation, a very small percentage of our countryside is under forest, and this means that numbers competing at present can not be increased on the same vast scale as in the Scandinavian countries. We can of course aim at increasing our standards, in mapping, competition and organisation generally.

Our competitive standards within the army are very high in relation to civilian standards, that is partly due to the fact that a seven-man team has competed at CISM orienteering each year since 1976. As an indication of our standards, Ireland has competed at the last three World Championships and at all three, fifty percent of the mens team have been military personnel. Perhaps with the introduction of our womens corps, we can have some representatives on the ladies team; surely one of our more interesting targets for the eighties?

DFAA FIXTURES

Badminton	*25 March*	*Athlone*
Soccer	*12 March*	*C Comd. or S Comd. v Air Corps.*
		NS or W Comd. v E Comd. **(Semi Finals)**
	26 March	*Final*

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	Including lunchtime.	
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	Thursdays	5.00-8.00 pm
	Fridays	10.00-12.30 pm

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A New Sport for the PDF? - .22 Rifle Shooting

Cpl. J. R. Enright

THE drive for the promotion of the first .22" Rifle Club for members of the Defence Forces has again shown fruit of success after five years of effort.

A demonstration of .22" Rifle Shooting was given to sixty army personnel of different ranks by the National Rifle and Pistol Association of Ireland (N.R.P.A.I.) in the Indoor Rifle Range, McDonagh Bks., in December last in order to popularise the sport of .22" Rifle Shooting throughout the Curragh Command.

It was an occasion that sowed seeds of hope for many a prospective rifleman in this field of sport. It was also the dawning of new preparations for the formation of a .22" Rifle Club for the army. The officer responsible for the new drive is Comdt. Eamon Moriarty 3 FD MPC, who is a member of NRPAI.

Mr. John Walsh, Chairman, was also present. He told me that his Association's aims were to promote the sport of .22" Rifle Shooting in Ireland and thus facilitate people who are interested in the sport, to help the Permanent Defence Force to form its own club and finally to get us to participate in Inter-Club Shooting Competitions against his Association.

Comdt. Moriarty gave a ten minute introduction on the various targets that are used for different ranges and shooting positions. Mr. John Walsh followed this up with a lecture on the types of rifles that are available. He also touched on the rules of holding, aiming and firing, he mentioned the advantages of wearing a Shooting Jacket while firing.

Afterwards a demonstration was given at twenty-five yards by three N.R.P.A.I. members and two volunteers from my own unit, the G.T.D. The latter were Sgt. Mallon and Sgt. Kinsella, two fine marksmen. Spectators were then invited to investigate the results at the butts, and also to try out the .22" Rifles with the clothing and accessories.

The demonstration concentrated on the prone position. Up to five army personnel fired a series of five to ten rounds, nursed along by N.R.P.A.I. coaches.

Meanwhile, behind the Firing Point other spectators mixed amongst the Association's members, asked them questions and investigated the selection of .22" Small-Bore Rifles, Air Rifles and service pistols that were on display.

Shooting is an art. There are three basic types of rifle: small-bore like the .22" Rifle, big-bore like the 7.62 mm F.N. Rifle and air rifle like the pellet gun. There is scarcely any comparison between firing a 7.62 mm F.N. Rifle, a shotgun and a .22" Rifle. In each case the shooting discipline is different and therefore mastering each type of rifle is an art in itself.

There are three types of small-bore rifles on the market:- the 'Prone', the Free and the Standard. The 'Prone' is for shooting in the lying position only, and the last two are designed for three-positional shooting. The one that would be ideal for the newly proposed Army .22" Rifle Club, the I.S.U. (International Shooter's Union) Standard

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL-BORE & AIR RIFLES

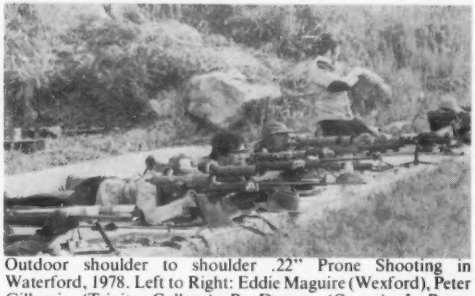
Type of Rifle	Small-Bore Standard	Small-Bore Free	Air Rifle
Maximum Weight	5 kg. (11 lbs.)	8 kg. (17.6 lbs.)	5 kg. (11 lbs.)
Maximum Calibre	5.6 mm	5.6 mm	4.5 mm
Thumb-Stock Hole	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Palm Rest	Not Allowed	Detachable	Not Allowed
Hook Plate (Adjustable Height & Angle	Now Allowed	Maximum Length : 15.3 cm (5.967")	Not Allowed
Butt	Length may be varied	Adjustable Length up to 3 cm (1.17")	Length may be varied
Spirit Levels	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Hand Stop	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed

Note: The Small-Bore Free Rifle can be adjusted to suit the build of its shooter.

Further Information

If you are interested in taking up .22" Rifle Shooting as a sport, you should write to one of the following people:

Comdt. Eamonn Moriarty,
12th Infantry Bn.,
Sarsfield Bks.,
Limerick.



Outdoor shoulder to shoulder .22" Prone Shooting in Waterford, 1978. Left to Right: Eddie Maguire (Wexford), Peter Gillespie (Trinity College), R. Deegan (Cavan), J. Byrne (Waterford). (Photo: Courtesy of John K. Walsh, Chairman N.R.P.A.I.)

Rifle because it is cheap and because I.S.U. events allow only this type of rifle.

Keen sportsmen who are into .22" Shooting in a big way, such as at professional level, would need to possess or have access to the following items of clothing and accessories in addition to their .22" Small-Bore Rifle:-

Glove - to prevent your left hand from slipping off the handguard.
Cap - to shade your eyes against the sun.
Shooting Jacket - for comfort.
Stop Watch - used in timed competitions.
Telescope Stand - to hold the Spotting Scope or Telescope.
Telescope - to observe your target after firing each shot.
Gun Muffer - to protect your hearing.
Gun Case - to carry rifle from A to B.
Gun Security Cabinet - for safety.
Ammunition Box - to hold your ammunition while firing.
Rifle Sling and Mat.

The skill in .22" Rifle Shooting lies in remaining still and in doing so, keeping the Fore-Sight of the rifle steady. Every time a shooter takes a rifle into his hands to fire it, his mind should tell him to repeat all actions in the same way for each round fired, remembering to keep a correct aim on the target in front of him and a smooth trigger press. In addition to this attitude, he needs dedication, regular practice and endurance.

One of the things that struck me during the demonstration was the way in which some of the coaches adopted the prone position. Instead of doing it army rifle style, they brought their right leg up towards their right shoulder in the lying position so that pressure on their lungs could be eased. In this way, their breathing wasn't interrupted. No doubt, an important factor to take into account when firing!

Ours is one of the few armies in the world that is without a Rifle Club. Isn't it a pity? Shooting is now an established sport around the world.

A Rifle Club, in the short term, would create an interest in shooting in the army and in the long run it woiuld improve the standard of shooting all round.

The national Rifle & Pistol Association of Ireland will be sending three of its members to the 1980 Olympic Games. Wouldn't it be a great sight to see the army competing in this worthwhile sport at Olympic level? The opportunity will soon be there for those who want to take up the sport. Who said that you couldn't be an Olympic hope like John Egan?

SHEET ANCHOR:

Looking to the future, the Army not only has to win the war militarily, but also to prepare itself for that future in the knowledge that the uniformed forces will be the sheet anchor of the country. To this end, it must be concerned first with the fighting man as the cutting edge of the Army's sword, to ensure always his readiness for battle, and his determination at all times to fulfil his mission. And secondly, the administrative and technical problems of manpower, budget, armament, equipment and maintenance will need careful planning and first-class control to ensure the growth to maximum efficiency.

ASSEGAI,
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46 Inf. Bn. UNIFIL

(Photos by Lt. Liam Clancy)

Lts. John Molloy and Adrian Ainsworth preparing for patrol on St. Stephens Day.

Ops. Staff on Christmas duty were L. to R: Pte. M. Murphy, Sgt. J. Broderick, Comdt. L. Coughlan.

At a meeting of UNIFIL Ops. officers Front from left: Lt. Col. A. Philippi (Observer, Group Lebanon); Lt. Col. F. van Woensel (CMIO), Maj. D. Horstmeier (Dutchbatt), Capt. B. Nwogu (Nibatt), Col. J. Tjassens (COO), Capt. A. Biuvakaloloma (Fiibatt); and Capt. C. L. Khadka (Nepbatt). Rear row from left: Maj. N. Fosland (Norbatt); **Comdt. J. Vize (Irishbatt)**, Lt. B. Anuni (Ghanbatt); Capt. J. L. Chinouilh (Co Frenchcoy); Cmdt. C. Ba (Senbatt), and Cmdt. G. Donguy (Frenchlog).

46 INF. BN. UNIFIL

Lt. Col. J. Kissane, OC with Sgt. J. Daly and Cpl. J. McGrain and Pte. J. Corish at HQ Coy. Christmas Dinner.

Cooks preparing the dinner Ptes. J. Flavey, J. Corish and E. Doyle.

Sgt. J. Cahill and Cpl. S. Reilly and S. Monahan at the Christmas Dinner.

Christmas Day in the Comcen. Sgmn. James Cole on duty.

At Bn. HQ Comdts. M. Minihan, J. Vize, and F. Cleary.

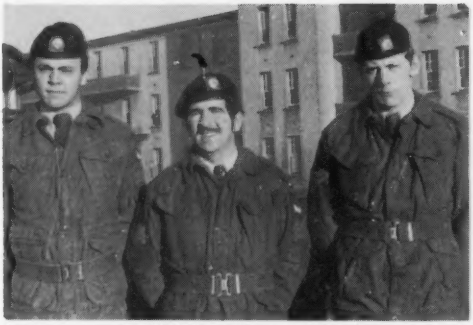
With the Hy. Mor. Tp. at Ayta az Zutt Cpl. Peter Downes and Gnr. Noel Gibney.

WESTERN COMMAND

Best Soldier (centre) of 51 Platoon 'A' Coy. 6th Bn. Custume Bks. was Pte. P. Touhy. Pte. J. Rober (on left) had Best Kit and Pte. P. Darcy was Best Shot. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

Children's party at Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa. CQMS P. Flaherty 25 Inf. Bn. with his children Martin, Sinead and Jacinta. (Photo: Sgt. M. Parslowe).

Sgt. T. Carolan 5 Fd. Bty. Arty. with his wife and family and Mrs. M. Wiley and her family. (Photo: Sgt. M. Parslowe)



Instructors on the 6th Inf. Bn. Ranger Course L. to R: Cpl. B. Bernes, Sgt. J. Cleary and Cpl. T. Wall. (Photo: Sgt. P. Cooley).

6th Reg. Sig. Course held at Custume Bks. Students were Front: Pte. M. Coughlan, Lt. P. Delaney, Cpl. P. Holihan. Back: Ptes. R. Cunningham, T. Cassidy, E. Reynolds, N. Coughlan, J. Meehan. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

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CURRAGH COMMAND

The Relay Team from AAS, Naas which won the Command Cross-Country Team event. Back: L. to R: Sgt. T. Kelly, Cpl. G. Loftus, Apprs. E. Kelly and M. Keane. Front: Apprs. S. Coughlan, J. Geraghty and T. Mahon. (Photo: O. McCrossan).

Col. T. O'Hanlon congratulating Gnr. B. Downey, Magee Bks. winner of the Command Cross Country Title with Cpl. P. Murphy, Magee Bks., second and Capt. W. Young, Military College, third. (Photo: Oliver McCrossan).

Cpl. Paddy O'Reilly, Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny who has reached the final eight in the National TV Top Aces Handball Competition held at Croke Park, being congratulated by Lt. Col. Pat Grennan, O.C. Stephens Barracks. (Photo: Tom Brett).

Recruiting team from Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny which is carrying out its campaign in Counties Wexford, Waterford, Carlow and Kilkenny. L. to R: Pte. John Hubbard, Lt. Paul Hanafin and Sgt. Damien O'Connell. (Photo: Tom Brett).

EASTERN COMMAND

The Minister for Defence Mr. P. Faulkner, T.D. on his first visit to Dundalk Military Barracks before Christmas accompanied by Lt. M. Murphy. (Photo: Sgt. G. Gallagher)

APCs of the 27th Inf. Bn. preparing to go on patrol. In the first vehicle Sgt. N. Scott, Cpl. M. Agnew and Pte. B. Tinte. The rearguard is Freddie, Barrack Mascot. (Photo: Sgt. G. Gallagher).

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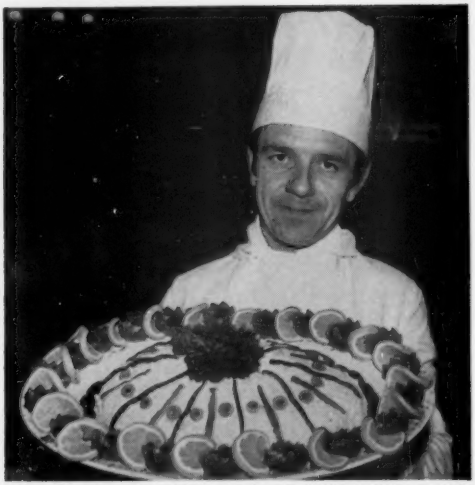
COOKERY COMPETITION

Cpl. T. Hatchett, 4th FAR, Runner up Individual Competition seen here with his exotic display dish. (Photo: Lensmen).



Sgt. Geraghty, 1st A/Car Sqdn. Individual Winner 1979 displays his winning dish. (Photo: Lensmen).

Mr. Tom Geoghegan, B.I.M., Brig. Gen. J. Stewart, O.C. W. Comd., Maj. Gen. M. J. Murphy, Q.M.G., Lt. Col. A. Donnelly discussing food preparation during the competition. (Photo: Lensmen).

Lt. Comdr. Keogh, Sub/Lt. McCarthy, Miss Phena O'Boyle, B.I.M., Comdr. O'Mahony chatting during the competition. (Photo: Lensmen).

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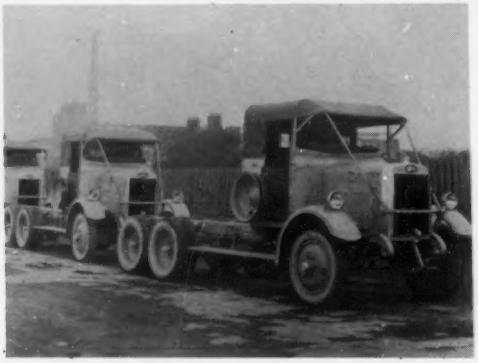
ARMOURED FIGHTING VEHICLES OF THE ARMY
No. 7: THE LEYLAND ARMOURED CAR

Denis J. McCarthy

AT the foundation of the state in 1922 the Army had received a number of armoured vehicles from the departing British forces, Rolls-Royce and Peerless armoured cars and Lancia armoured lorries. Ten years later, one tank, the Vickers Medium Mk D, had been added, four of the Peerless armoured cars were permanently unserviceable and the Lancias had been relegated to the role of transport vehicles for the Cavalry Corps. The thirteen Rolls-Royces constituted "the" Armoured Squadron, and prospects of additional vehicles, or even replacements for the already obsolete vehicles in service, were non-existent. Faced with this situation, the then Acting Director of the Cavalry Corps, Comdt. J. V. Lawless submitted a memo to his superiors.

"In this memo I gave a resume of the situation and the need for re-equipment of the Corps, going on to suggest that a way out of the difficulty might be found in native production of the armoured hulls. The idea was that some suitable commercial chassis, preferably of a make and type already in general use in the country, should be selected. A suitable armoured hull to fit such chassis should then be designed which could be rapidly fitted to the chassis with a minimum of alterations to the latter. Such hulls could then be built and stored for use in an emergency at reasonably low cost, and a subsidy scheme entailing periodic inspection could be devised to provide for the existence in the country of a sufficient number of chassis held by commercial users. To demonstrate the feasibility of the scheme I then went on to suggest that I was prepared to transfer the hull of one of the (now unserviceable) Peerless cars if a T.E.2 Leyland six-wheel chassis were purchased for the purpose" (Col. J. V. Lawless - 1/2/63).

While the main part of the proposal was ignored, permission was given to proceed with the transfer of the hull to a new chassis, and in 1934 a Leyland Terrier chassis was purchased for the purpose. The work involved in the project consisted of mounting the centre and rear portions of the hull on the new front section from salvaged armour plate, the cutting and drilling of which caused considerable problems. This work was undertaken by Comdt. Lawless, Capt. Aubrey Mayne, and Coy. Sgt. Paddy Lynch in the Cavalry Workshops. The completed vehicle was demonstrated in the Curragh on the 10th September 1934 to a number of General Staff and other officers, including Major-General Sweeney, G.O.C. Curragh, and Major Lawlor, Director of Cavalry. A formal Board of Officers later expressed approval of the vehicle, but recommended that on any future vehicles the twin Peerless turrets should be replaced by a single large turret.

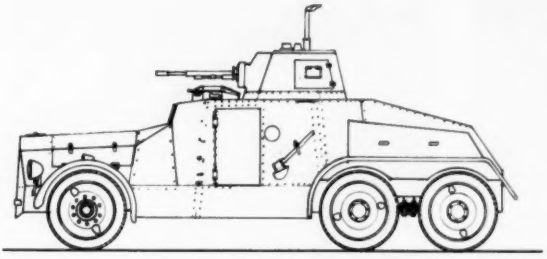


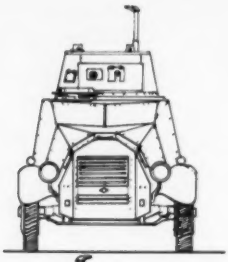
Leyland Terrier Chassis.

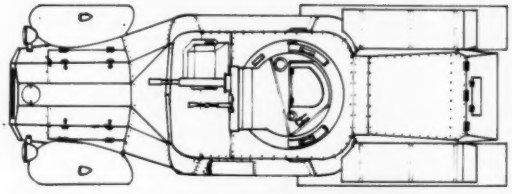
Peerless Hull on Leyland Chassis.

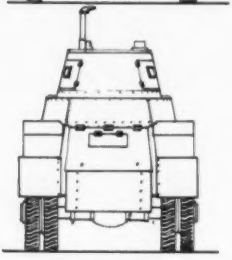
Comdt. J. V. Lawless and Capt. T. O'Hanlon with the first Leyland Armoured Car - Kilworth Camp, May '38.

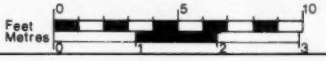
LEYLAND ARMOURED CAR 1938











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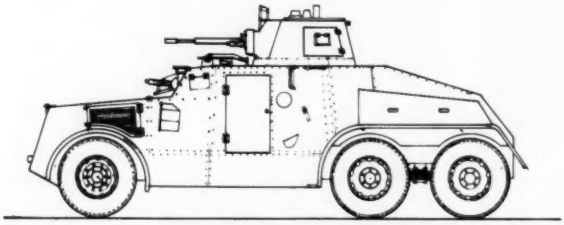
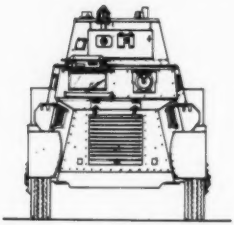
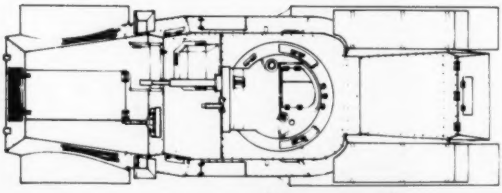
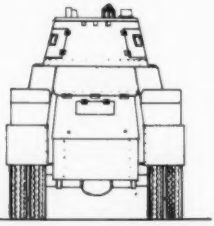
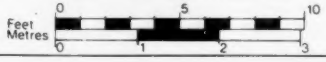
LEYLAND ARMOURED CAR 1956











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The Leyland Armoured Car.

Firing Practice 5th Motor Squadron, July '75.

The report was accepted and an additional three chassis were ordered in March 1935. Having completed one vehicle, Comdt. Lawless set about designing an improved version, and went over to Leylands to discuss possible modifications which might be made to the chassis to make them more suitable for their purpose, as well as overcoming some of the limitations imposed by the use of salvaged armour plate. One of the proposed modifications was the provision of an auxiliary axle for the spare wheels which would be carried, free to rotate, clear of the ground to give added support in cross-country work, but this was later dropped from the design. Also that year, the first of the Landsverk L-60 tanks was delivered, and it was decided that the turrets for the Leylands should be modelled on the Landsverk turret, and that welding them in its infancy, should be used rather than rivetting wherever possible in the new vehicles. To further complicate matters, the Workshops underwent a major reconstruction at this time, which further delayed work on the cars, and a new Director of Cavalry was appointed, Col. McKenna, who succeeded in obtaining sanction for the purchase of four Landsverk turrets to equip the completed cars. The increased weight of this turret required a complete redesign of the vehicle, and further delays were caused by the need to send Coy. Sgt. Paddy Lynch to England on a welding course, although some of the techniques and materials had already been acquired in Sweden (in a rather dubious fashion). The result of all these delays was that the construction of the first car did not start until July 1937. The remaining three cars were commenced as additional fitters could be obtained, the first car being completed in May 1938 and all four were taken into service by July 1939, being allocated the registration numbers ZC 773 - ZC 776, and assigned to the 1st Armoured Squadron.

The Leylands remained in service with the 1st Armoured Squadron until May 1940 when the Squadron was disbanded to supply armoured cars to the newly formed Motor Squadrons. The Leylands remained in the Curragh until the Squadron was reformed as a heavy armoured car squadron in 1942, when they were joined by the Landsverks and Dodge armoured cars. In 1955 Col. Lawless, who had been transferred in December 1941, returned to the Cavalry Corps as Director, and during his term of office he arranged for the re-engining of the Landsverk and Leyland armoured cars with Ford V-8 engines. When this was being done, the opportunity was taken to rebuild the dront section of the Leyland hull along the general lines of the Landsverks and in this form they served with the 1st Armoured Squadron until 1972, when the three surviving cars (ZC 775 didn't make it) were handed over to the 5th Motor Squadron, with which they still serve.

Acknowledgement for help received in the preparation of this article is due to Lt. Col. F. Lawless, Lt. Col. R. McCorley, Comdt. A. Magennis, Comdt. K. Knightly, Capt. D. Hynes, Capt. B. Rohan, Sq. Sgt. P. Lynch (retd.), Trooper B. Melly and the 5th Motor Squadron en masse.

A special acknowledgement is due to the late Comdt. Mick Considine who as O/C 5th Motor Squadron could not have been more courteous, helpful and hospitable to me when I started researching this series. It is a matter of deep regret to me that he never saw any result for all the trouble he took to assist me.

Ar dheir de go raibh a anam.

D. J. McCarthy

British Army Experience

Although performing a thankless task, the British Army has gained some benefits from its experience in Northern Ireland:

It is an excellent opportunity for developing small-unit leaders. A lieutenant, sergeant or corporal will be forced to make individual decisions because the situation will demand immediate decisiveness regarding small-unit tactics.

Military Review, U.S.

N.C.O.'s PROMOTIONS - JANUARY

Rank	Name	Unit	Promoted to	To
Sgt.	Mullane, M.	1 Fd. S & T	CQMS	1 Fd. S & T
Sgt.	Carr, P.	29 Inf. Bn.	C/S	29 Inf. Bn.
CQMS	Daly, T.	29 Inf. Bn.	C/S	29 Inf. Bn.
Sgt.	Kelly, J.	6 Bn.	CQMS	6 Bn.
Sgt.	O'Brien, B.	11 Fd. S & T	CQMS	11 Fd. S & T
Sgt.	Graham, J.	3 Hosp. Coy.	CQMS	3 Hosp. Coy.
Sgt.	Bergin P.	30 Inf. Bn.	CQMS	30 Inf. Bn.

WOMEN FIRST:

As more women enter the Service, the numbers of hospitalizations and days lost not only for pregnancy-related conditions, but for many other conditions as well, will probably increase. During the past decade, the percentages of enlisted Navy women who were hospitalized each year represented between 25 and 30 per cent of all women on active duty. In comparison, the percentages of male admissions declined steadily from 13 per cent of all enlisted men in 1966 to approximately 11 per cent in 1975. Further, although the psychiatric hospitalization rates decreased for women, the rate in 1975 was still higher for women than men - 2,604 per 100,000 for women compared with 1,502 for men. As an effort to explain these differences, a study is currently being conducted in which correlates of illness in males and females will be compared.

MILITARY MEDICINE, U.S.

FREE INT.:

It may be felt that, inevitably, any Intelligence Service must be subject to political direction and control, but the important qualification is the fundamental difference between the acceptance of guidance and accountability, as opposed to subservience.

THE ARMY QUARTERLY AND DEFENCE JOURNAL, U.K.

RICARDO'S

Snooker Billiards
Snacks

85 LR. CAMDEN STREET,
DUBLIN 2.

BOOK REVIEW

AIRBORNE WARFARE 1914-1941. Barry Gregory. Illustrations by John Batchelor. A Phoebus History of the World Wars Special. £1.25 (U.K.)

The idea of the parachute has been known since the 1500's but it was not until the Great War of 1914/18 that they were used by the Military and then sadly for the most part of the conflict by the wrong people.

For most of the Great War parachutes were used by crews of observation ballons who used them to escape to the ground when attacked by passing enemy aircraft and it was not until 1917 that pilots of the Royal Flying Corps were allowed with great reluctance to use them.

This interesting fact plus many more have been unearthed by Barry Gregory in this the latest in a long series of excellent books from Phoebus.

This book also covers the use of gliders and a good portion is devoted to parachute and glider development in the inter war years by Germany, Great Britain, Russia and various other countries. Minor details as to the types of harnesses used and the different dropping techniques are covered and it is interesting to see how each country developed it's own system.

The book concludes with some of the outstanding uses of airborne troops by the German's in the first two years of World War 2. The operations covered are the capture of the Belgian fortress of Eban-Emael in May 1940 and Operation Merkur - the assault on Crete.

By concluding in 1941 it must be assumed that Mr. Gregory is working on a follow-up edition from 1941 to the present time and must be complimented for a very good first part which is well written with plenty of illustrations by photographs and drawings which were executed by John Batchelor who again has done a terrific job, thus confirming the high reputation he has as a first class illustrator of military books.

All in all, a very good book which any student of military history must include in his library since it covers many areas not covered by many books on the market today in such an interesting fashion.

J. M. S.

CIVIL DEFENCE:

If deterrence fails and war comes to Europe, we must anticipate that nuclear weapons would be used against our own forces and that the Soviets would have little concern for European urban areas. We also must anticipate escalation to strategic nuclear exchange. We have faced these possibilities in the past. Failure to continue to face them and to develop counter tactics and damage control contingencies would be foolish. Allowing fear to immobilize our efforts toward development of credible TNF deterrence would be criminal.

MILITARY REVIEW, U.S.

CAOGA INTO THE '80's

Comdt. P. Redmond

THE start of a new decade is an appropriate time to up-date members on the relevant facts of CAOGA, particularly as there have been a number of new developments, namely wife-emmbership (w.e.f. 1 March '79), increased benefit (w.e.f. 7 January '80) and increased subscriptions (w.e.f. 1 February '80). It might also be useful to give members a reminder about our subsidiary schemes, the Group Assurance Scheme and the Loans Scheme. It can be said that the main functions of the Society now are -

the insuring of money to be paid on a death of a member or a wife-member.

the payment of funeral expenses in the event of the death of a wife or child of a member.

The organisation and administration of subsidiary schemes such as the Group Assurance Scheme and the Loans Scheme.

Membership and Subscriptions

The membership figures can be regarded as very satisfactory. A feature over the past number of years has been the 100% response from newly commissioned officers. There are now 1461 officer-members out of an eligible total of 1467. This is an indication of the high regard in which the Society is held by the Officer body. On the 1st March 1979 wife-membership was introduced and since then 729 officers have enrolled their wives. An analysis of the membership is as follows:-

Category	Subscription per month	Total
Officer Member	40p	2
Officer Member	£3.35	1459
Wife-Member	£1.40	729

Note: 729 officers are paying £4.75 monthly (£3.35 in respect of their own membership and £1.40 in respect of their wifes wife-membership). All subscriptions are 100% refundable.

Benefits

On the death of a member. The official benefit under the Friendly Societies Act still remains at £1,000. However, since 7 January 1980 the Society has authority to pay an additional £4,000 on a discretionary basis. The total payable on the death of a member is therefore £5,000.

On the death of a wife-member. The benefit on the death of a wife-member is £2,000. (£1,000 official and £1,000 discretionary).

Funeral Expenses. The Rules provide for the payment of Funeral Expenses as follows:-

on the death of a member's wife, the sum of £600

on the death of a member's child over 5 years, in respect of whom a childrens allowance is being paid under DFR S3 - £600

Under 5 yrs. of age - £200.

These amounts are reviewed annually and will be increased with effect from the date of the Annual General meeting. On the death of a wife-member, funeral expenses are paid in addition to the benefit.

Financial Growth

In the early years of the Society, because of the much lower subscription rates, the financial development of the Society was slow. However, since the introduction of the £19.20 rate in 1966, the financial position of the Society has improved considerably. The situation must further improve with the introduction of the 729 new wife-members and the new subscription rates effective from the 1st February 1980. In recent years the subscription income of the Society has been approximately £28,000 per annum. In 1980 this figure will increase to slightly in excess of £70,000. These additional subscriptions will generate increased investment income thus accelerating the development of the Society.

On the 31.12.79 the Investment fund of the Society totalled £316,827 under the following main headings:-

Investments (Nominal Value)	£134,545
On loan to members	£29,282
Deposit A/c - Dublin Savings Bank	£153,000

Of the above total £283,887 is due to members as refundable subscriptions and bonus payments.

Bonus

The Bonus Scheme was introduced in 1970 because it was apparent that investments were providing income in excess of that required to meet death benefits, funeral expenses and administrative costs. The Committee decided that it was more equitable to distribute excess income by way of bonuses among existing members. A bonus is calculated after sufficient funds have been put aside to ensure the continued growth of the Society. Since 1970, a bonus has been credited to eligible members on three occasions - in 1972, a total of £4,523 in 1977, a total of £4,846, and in 1979 a total of £8,672 was distributed. The total paid as bonus is refunded to the member, in addition to his total subscriptions of his ceasing to be an officer.

General

It has been the ambition of the CAOGA Committee to create a situation whereby an officer who participates in all service schemes will have

provided adequately for his dependants in the event of his death. The following example represents the situation for an 'average' officer aged early forties, married with three children.

Lump sum payments on death		Pensions	
£12,500	(Group Ass.)	Service	£3,932.00
5,000	(CAOGA)	Social Welfare	£1,872.00
6,550	(Gratuity minus)		
24,050			£5,804.00
Retain £4,050 invest £20,000 at 12%.		Plus income from investment	£2,400
		TOTAL	£8,204.00

Note: In the case ofnofficers who were 50 years or over on 1 Oct. '76 the lump sum payment will be reduced by £6,250.
Both pensions are index linked and each lump sum payment will increase periodically.
The above figures are based on the Commandants maximum of £8,042.

Group Assurance Scheme

In October 1976 CAOGA introduced the Group Assurance Scheme for its members. The object of the Scheme is to give members an opportunity to provide substantial death benefit at minimum cost.

Benefits and Premiums

The Scheme mainly provides a death benefit of £12,500 up to age 55 years for a monthly premium of £2.28. There is an option on reaching 55 years to continue cover, in multiples of £1,000, up to a maximum of £12,500 at an increased premium of £1.30 per month per £1,000 cover.

Officers who were over 50 years of age on entry into the Scheme have a maximum cover of £6,250. The premium for those officers is £2.28 per month up to age 55 years and £1.30 per £1,000 per month thereafter.

Over age 60 years

Over age 60 years, the following premiums apply:

Age 61 - £1.73 per month per £1,000
62 - £1.95 per month per £1,000
63 - £2.16 per month per £1,000
64 - £2.38 per month per £1,000
65 - £2.60 per month per £1,000

There are now NO extra premiums for special hazards such as Air Corps flying or E.O.D. These have been eliminated.

Medical Evidence

There is no medical for officers joining the Scheme at first opportunity i.e. the 1st of the month following commissioning or appointment as an officer. For officers availing of the continuation option, no medical is required.

Continuation Option

A member may, on ceasing to be an officer of the PDF, take out Endowment or Whole Life Assurance with the Irish Life Assurance Co. for an amount not exceeding the cover he held under the Scheme, at ordinary rates. As previously mentioned, there is no requirement for medical. This option must be applied for within 30 days of retirement and does not apply to members retiring beyond 60 years of age.

The Scheme is inflation-proofed in that the sums assured will be increased periodically with pro-rata increases in premium. It is intended to increase the benefits to £15,000 and £7,500 w.e.f. next renewal date (1 Oct. 1980).

Loan Scheme

The loans scheme, organised by the Committee in conjunction with the Dublin Savings Bank, commenced in 1976 and since then approximately 250 officers have received over £500,000 in loans at very favourable interest rates. However the recent 'credit-squeeze' has had its effect on the Scheme, particularly as the DSB is controlled directly by the Department of Finance and Government directions on credit restrictions are more rigidly applied. Because of this a backlog of applicants has developed.

The Scheme will however re-open early this year and the backlog cleared quarterly. On the easing of the credit restrictions the Scheme will be back into full swing.

The terms of the loans will be as follows:
Maximum amount £2,000
Repayment period 3 years.

The Interest rate (at present 14%) is variable but it will always be 4% below the Trustee Bank lending rate, which in turn is generally below the commercial bank rate.

Officers who wish to borrow in excess of the £2,000 may be asked for security and will be charged an additional 2% interest on the amount exceeding £2,000.

Loans are available for any purpose but generally married officers buying their first house will get priority.

Membership of CAOGA does not **guarantee** receipt of a loan. The Loans Manager Dublin Savings Bank is the final arbiter in the issue of loans.

Further details on any aspect of the CAOGA operation can be had from the secretary, CAOGA, AHQ (01) 771881 ext. 184.

Umbrellas Authorised for Men

Solid black or dark blue umbrellas are now authorized to be carried by all Air Force members in uniform when weather conditons warrant. Previously, only Air Force women in uniform were permitted to use the umbrella. The umbrella will be carried in the left hand so as not to hinder saluting, and may not be carried during military formations or when working in areas where the umbrella would be considered unsafe. *(Airman USA)*

Submitted by Sgt. Smith, Air Corps Hqrs.

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

ALONE

'Members of the 11th Motor Squadron earned favourable media coverage for themselves, and the Forces, by their donation of £1,200 to that very worthy charity, ALONE. The money was raised by Carol singing at the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. The Cavalry were always vocal of course. We wonder if they enlisted the help of any exers? We remember one legendary Director who would add considerable volume to any group. He became a legend in his own lunchtime in many Messes.

Terry O'Sullivan visited McKee Bks. for the presentation and reminisced about the place in this nostalgic piece.

Incidentally, we were pleasantly surprised at the modern NCOs' Mess in McKee. It has grown around the men's bar as we first knew it in September, 1939. There can be few who can remember the miserable and gloomy cell, lit by a 40-watt unshaded lamp, in which we could buy either Mountjoy Stout Brown or pale Mountjoy Ale.

They tasted alike, but no one was critical. We were young, and earning twelve shillings and sixpence a week and we had three meals a day, with your overcoat on, in the stables which had housed the horses of the Fifth Lancers. But, of course, your rasher is congealed fat stuck to your egg, and you scraped your cold aluminium plate in the dixie of greasy warm water which you shared with your immediates. You reverted to your boy scout skills of wiping your plate clean with a sod of grass.

In the wall of McKee Barracks, just beside what is now the NCOs' Mess, there was a door leading out into Marlborough something or other, and it was to this door that the British soldiers' wives living in married quarters in the Arbour Hill area, handed in the laundry for which they earned a penny a bundle.

The Anti-Aircraft Battalion of McKee Barracks, like the millions of young men then thronging the barracks of Europe, contained some restless spirits, and a mimeographed magazine named 'Cossaint' appeared, price one penny, for one issue. It was banned by the then Minister for Defence, and I was lucky not to be banned too, for I was the Editor. There was only one worthwhile article in it . . . a history of Marlborough-McKee Barracks, and maybe I can find a copy for the Army Archives Office.'

ROLL ON

The **Daily Telegraph** editorials are NOT always palatable to us but some of their diary snippets on matters military are worth wider circulation. Like the following:

A story from an Officers' Mess which shall remain nameless tells of a committee set up by the Ministry of Defence (Navy) last year to tackle the problems of retention of personnel, manning levels and training. The job of finding it a name was given to its most junior member a lieutenant-commander.

He came up with 'Retention of Manpower and Future Training Committee,' and this was adopted. It wasn't until a senior officer jotted down the abbreviation ROMFT that the horrible result of trusting witty young men with bureaucratic tasks struck home.

For non-matelots: romft is a very special naval word meaning, in effect: roll on my flaming time!

Initials are dangerous. If you come across a soldier with the initials IHFO tattooed on his four fingers don't ask him what they stand for. We know one unsuspecting inspecting officer who did and was told, poker-faced, 'I hate flipping officers'. Actually flipping wasn't the word but this is a family journal. So DSYWW - Don't say you weren't warned!

His Eminence Cardinal O'Fiaich unveiling a plaque in the Church at Dundalk Military Bks. commemorating deceased members of the 27th Inf. Bn. Rev. H. McGowan, C.F. on left. (Photo: Sgt. A. Egerton).

C/S P. Grey who retired after 21 years service with Lt. Col. T. P. Carroll, Adjutant S. Comd.

HIGH CLASS:

The quality of Soviet military education is difficult to evaluate. To the Western observer, it appears to be oriented and traditionally authoritarian. Yet the Soviets consider the schools to be producing the best educated officers they have ever had: completely loyal, ideologically conditioned, clearly nationalistic, technically competent and responsive to centralized control.

MILITARY REVIEW, U.S.

The Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan on the occasion of his investiture with the decoration Legion of Honour by the French Ambassador Mr. J. Dupuy last month. This decoration was created by Napoleon in 1802 and is the highest rank that can be conferred upon a non-French person. The decoration on a plain red ribbon, is a silver star in the form of the badge of the order and the legend 'Honneur et Patrie'. In the course of his address the French Ambassador said 'Though extended to civilians, this decoration has a military connotation and has been worn by distinguished officers of Irish origin, including two marshals of France: Marshal MacDonald, under the First Empire, and Marshal MacMahon, who became the first president of the Third Republic. They were the worthy heirs of the "Wild Geese" who fought so gallantly under the colours of the Irish Brigade on many battlefields, especially at Fontenoy.

Thus, the friendly relations between our two armies find new expressions of interest: In the military field I know you have greatly contributed to the achievement of closer links between our two countries.'

Last year the Spanish Government honoured the Chief of Staff with the Gran Cruz de Merito Militar con Distinlido Blanco. Group below at the ceremony in the French Embassy L. to R: Commodore P. Kavanagh, NS; Brig. W. P. W. Robertson, British Military Attache; Col. de Bressy du Guast, French Military Attache; Chief of Staff; Mr. M. Healy, Secretary Dept. of Defence; Rear Admiral F. de Queylar, French Defence Attache; Col. W. Bournes, US Military Attache and Adj. Gen. Maj. Gen. P. J. Carroll. (Air Corps photo).

Capt. Gerry Mullins on *Spring Melody* competing in Sydney. (Photo: Irish Horse World).

Irish Life Assurance Co. Ltd. recently presented awards to the outstanding young riders of 1979. Members of the Army Equitation School (see cover) who received trophies were Capt. G. Mullins and Lts. J. Roche and D. Foster. Last year Capt. Mullins competed in France, Germany, Switzerland, England, Holland, Canada, Australia and all over Ireland. He was winner of the Puissance Trophy and leading rider at Deauville and he was leading foreign rider and a member of the winning team in Australia. He won a Bronze Medal with the European Championship Team at Rotterdam and he was also successful at Calgary, at the Dublin Indoor International Show and at many other shows throughout the country.

John Roche, recently promoted to Capt., competed at the same venues as Capt. Mullins with the exception of Sydney. He was a member of the winning Nations Cup Team at Aachen and had many placings with the Irish Team throughout Europe winning a Bronze Medal at Rotterdam. He was also winner in the International Class at Limerick Show.

Lt. Foster was a member of the Gold Medal winning Irish Team at the European 3-Day event at Lumuhlen, Germany and he was placed in the individual event as he was at the Punchestown 3-Day event. He was also successful in many 1 and 2-Day events at various venues. This year all three riders hope to compete in the Olympics and we wish them every success.

Appreciation

COMDT. BRIAN CANTWELL

As a footnote to Brian's Obituary notice, I recall that in August 1940 three corporals were sent from the 10th (Uisneach) Infantry Battalion to do a Potential Officers Course in the Artillery School, Kildare: Brian was one of them. They were convinced that they had come from the best outfit in 'any man's army'. Major Paddy Tuite was the C.O. of the battalion, Dinny Moran the Sergeant Major and Captain Gary Foley was the Adjutant, corporals explained to their 'emergency men' fellow P.O.S. giving breaks about how a bit of pigiron in the right place at the right time was an essential ingredient to hard efficient soldiering. Brian himself was a great believer in the 'nuts and bolts' of no-nonsense, down-to-earth practical soldiering and he loved that side of Army Life and made a valuable contribution to it.

Without however ever wavering in loyalty to the '10th' Brian's personality helped to form a transcending all arms esprit-de-corps. Being a fine sportsman himself was a help: there was a place in the field for every man in the combat team as well. Perhaps symtomatic of the wide appeal of that brotherhood of sport was the presence at his funeral of another great sportsman, Mr. Jack Lynch T.D.

The limbers keep rolling along. Brian was a good soldier and in many a book that says the superlative everything. But esprit-de-corps does not emanate exclusively from all work and no play. Manys the social gathering Brian enlivened with excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan remembered from his days in the Rockwell College opera and his rendering of songs such as 'Martha' from the repertoire of the now forgotten Arthur Tracy. God be with you, Brian. Ar dheis De go raibh a Anam.
J. P. D.

University College Dublin

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Bachelor of Public Administration

Applications are invited for the four year course leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Public Administration commencing in the session 1980/81. Further details and an application form for admission are obtainable from the Course Director, B.P.A. Programme, Commerce Faculty, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4. Admission to the course will be limited.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 March 1980.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cathal Brugha Bks.,
Dublin 6.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Sir,

Your interesting article in last month's issue on the Curragh Command's Alpine Expedition prompts me to give some information on the first army mountaineering teams climb in the Alps last Summer.

The team consisted of leader Capt. Ted Russell, Sgt. Peter Brogan, Cpl. Paddy Cuddihy, and Pte. Seamus Aylward.

The team left for the Alps in mid-August and spent three weeks on selected climbs in the Mont Blanc area. Among their climbs the most notable achievements were:-

North-West face of Aiguille du Midi	(3842 mtrs.)
South-West face of Dent du Requis	(3422 mtrs.)
South-West ridge of Dent du Caiman	(3554 mtrs.)
South ridge of Aiguille du Boinnassey	(4052 mtrs.)
Brenva ridge of Mont Blanc	
Aiguille de Trelatete	(3930 mtrs.)

Despite the weather being unfavourable the team made eight ascents. Sgt. Peter Brogan 27th Inf. Batt, describes two memorable events:-

"Starting at the usual time of 3 o'clock in the morning we left the comfort of our sleeping bags to attempt the summit of Aiguille de Trelatete.

The snow was hard enabling us to move steadily roped in pairs. Soon legs were tired from the effort of kicking crampons into the frozen snow. When the dawn came, the sun emerged to give us warmth and a chance to rest as we surveyed the beauty of the surrounding peaks, determined to reach the summit we moved on, the ground getting steeper, the rests more frequent. At 1 o'clock we stood on the summit, almost, 4,000 mtrs. high. The surrounding peaks were visible for miles covered in fresh snow. It felt as if we were indeed on top of the world."

"Our only disappointment was that we never got to the summit of Mont Blanc. On our two attempts bad weather forced us to retreat, the second time a fierce storm and blizzard forced us down near the top of the Brenva Route. We relied on the navigation of Capt. Russell to get us back to our tents. Twelve hours after starting out in clear weather, we crawled back through a blizzard to our tents for a long overdue hot meal. The Reeks in Winter seemed a pleasant stroll compared to this."

The Eastern Command Mountaineering Club plans to have another Expedition to the Alps in 1980.

Capt. D. Reidy
Chairman, Eastern Command Mountaineering Club.

OF COURSE !

It should be emphasized that Officers must be able to make decisions and solve problems logically and efficiently. To do so they must develop an understanding of processes and be able to commit these to paper. They must be capable of transmitting the skills of logical thinking to subordinates by example, counselling and preparation of logical, clear paperwork.

DEFENCE FORCE JOURNAL, AUSTRALIA

Two-Woman Tents

A great deal of thought should be given to the safety of women soldiers in a field environment. More women are occupying previously male-dominated slots. They are definitely part of the scene in the field. The opportunities for rape in a darkened tent city are not hard to imagine. Most units have only a sprinkling of women soldiers in their ranks. This situation presents a problem of having only one or two women in a tent - a perfect opportunity for a rapist. Units should give some thought to consolidating their women soldiers, because there is safety in numbers. Women soldiers should be briefed on the increased risk in a field environment. Locating supervisory personnel near the women's tents could prevent sexual assaults. Again, the use of alcohol in the field is going to increase the possibility of assaults and disorderly conducts.

(Military Police - USA)

BOOK REVIEWS

SUEZ: THE DOUBLE WAR. Roy Fullick and Geoffrey Powell. Hamish Hamilton, £7.95 (UK only)

Roy Fullick commanded a company of the Parachute Regiment in the Suez operation and left the British Army after sixteen years service, about a year later.

Geoffrey Powell, author of several other military books and papers, served for most of World War II with the Parachute Regiment and retired from the British Army in 1964 with the rank of colonel.

The Suez operation took place in November 1956 following President Nasser's nationalisation of the Canal in July 1956, reaction to which in Britain was one of "bewildered rage". The British and French governments quickly got into consultation and "even though Pineau made it clear to Eden 'that his Government was unanimous in its desire for urgent and decisive action', there are troops either French or British immediately ready to go into action."

The authors have compiled an absorbing account of the political and military intrigues leading up to, during and immediately after the Suez operation. They recount the weaknesses within the British Army in respect of military intelligence; availability of trained personnel, especially in specialist categories; the supply of up-to-date arms and equipment and above all the absence for all practical purposes of a strategic reserve.

In addition to the relatively unprepared state of the British services for a quick operation which was the primary need, there was the lack of a clear political objective leading ultimately to the military aim to "re-occupy the Canal Zone and so guarantee freedom of navigation and to topple Nasser". Neither of these concepts was thought through - with embarassing consequences subsequently!

From the very outset this failure to define clearly the precise aim of the Suez operation led to plan after plan after plan which did little to promote clear understanding in the political, military or economic spheres between British and French political and military leaders; leading to situations where for example military commanders learned of important decisions from subordinates or indeed on "the grapevine" sometimes. The Israelis, invited to participate by the French initially and who trusted neither the British nor the French, made their own plans for the invasion of the Sinai and the reopening of the Gulf of Aqaba, without - it appears - disclosing the details of their plans to either of their allies.

What is really extraordinary about the Suez operation is the extent to which it seemed to the authors that British politicians and Service Chiefs were unaware of the shortcomings of the services in matters of trained technicians and up-to-date equipment, particularly in the Army.

What really happened is well expressed and covered in detail in all its facets in a very interesting book, complete with adequate maps, bibliography and index. It will prove of compelling interest to many readers, military and civilian alike, but especially to those who like to know what goes on behind closed doors.

And a final quote, from the foreword of the book "In the future quite a different book or books will probably be written when the Public Record Office does reveal its secrets but even then it is highly unlikely that the complete truth about Suez will be revealed".

P. Q.

THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE STORY. M. Rubinstein and R. Goldman. Arms and Armour Press. £5.95.

Since its foundation more than thirty years ago, the Israeli Air Force has gained a reputation for being one of the finest and best equipped Air Forces in the world. Through many wars and crises, its numerous exploits have given rise to so many myths that it is often difficult to separate fact from fancy. While retaining a few hoary myths, the authors of this book have given us an interesting and readable account of their subject. Considering the degree of security prevailing in that Air Force, the authors have done well to come up with so much that is new and their narrative is spiced with many interesting personal recollections.

The Israeli Air Force or to give its proper title, the Chel Ha' Avair, had its roots in the Israeli Air Service founded during the war of independence. Palestine having been held by the British since 1918, was due to be divided and the separate parts handed over to the Jews and the Arabs in 1948. As the date for independence drew near, Arab irregulars started attacking Jewish settlements with the intention of driving the Jews out of their promised territory. A jewish underground movement started organising the defence of their communities and the attackers found themselves being attacked in turn. The Jews quickly discovered that one of their most urgent requirements was on air capability to enable them to strike at the enemy on his own territory. Few aircraft or trained pilots were available however and the only source of supply was the few flying clubs and sporting aircraft owned by Jews in the area. A motley collection of small, mostly sporting, aircraft were slowly transformed into bombers of the Air Service. With a mixture of skill, gallantry and good luck, the tiny Air Service survived until the coming of independence. The Service now took on the new name which it still retains and immediately faced the concerted attack on the new state launched by her Arab neighbours after the grant of independence and the expiry of the British mandate. The Israelis now faced the combined might of Egypt, Syria and Iraq, who between them had over 130 military aircraft, some of them modern fighters like the Super-marine Spitfire. The frantic search for aircraft and pilots gradually produced a much needed build-up of equipment on the Israeli side. Many of the subterfuges used to evade embargos and enemy defences are recounted here. From modest beginnings the Air Force grew and developed in strength, taking an active role in the many wars and tensions that have beset the state of Israwl since that time. All the major wars and exploits up to and including the Entebbe rescue are covered. Some of these actions like the wars of 1956 and 1967 are dealt with rather cursorily and are dismissed in a few pages. Some of the accounts too are somewhat less than impartial. The section on Suez for example contains no mention of the RAF and FAF parts in that war, hardly something which should be ignored. This said, the book is a fascinating and readable account of a great fighting machine.

There are copious appendices some interesting and some of doubtful value. The appendix on aircraft specifications, covering the ninety nine different types of aircraft which flew in the Air Force/Air service at one time or another, is of rather limited interest and this material is widely available in other publications. There are over thirty pages of photographs of aircraft and some of these photographs are new and interesting. Oddly the book comes without an index.

Hardly the definitive account of the Israeli Defence Force Air Force, yet there is enough factual material in this book to make it's reading worth the effort. And speaking of facts, if you thought Paddy the Irishman fought only for the Brits, you will find that he also fought for the Israelis during 1948. He's in Appendix 4, at the control tower of AQUIR, guiding Israeli Seebees to exotic new places, to see interesting people . . . and bomb them.

M. A. C.

GREEN ICE. Gerald A. Browne. Panther. £1.37½

What makes a thriller thrilling? Many books have good plots, credible characters, sex, money and are well written but fail to provide that certain elusive thrill which is the hallmark of the outstanding novel. With this novel Gerald A. Browne doesn't miss the mark! It is compulsive, read-all-night material for the thriller lover.

Of course, the plot has everything going for it - international intrigue, the lure of vast fortunes in emeralds, a girlfriend who is a millionairess, and so on.

The heroes of the novel, if heroes is the word I'm groping for, are Joseph A. Wiley, an electrical engineer who thought electrical engineering a lot too slow a way to make his fortune

and his girlfriend to be, Lillian Holbrook, who had been left multiple millions by her hardgrafting father. She's not the usual run of the mill millionairess, though (and how could she be in a story like this). Having absented herself from her posh school at the tender age of fifteen, she became involved with various anti establishment groups and turned up just in time to prevent her inheritance going to someone else. Although she came into her millions all right she still liked to pack a rucksack and with nothing more than her wits to sustain her, head off into the wide blue yonder. Somewhere in her pre millionaire years she became an expert marksperson and in the course of the story she shows our confused electrical engineer how to manufacture hydro explosive bullets! She's also an avid marbles player. (Well, your character: have to have some individuality)!

The villain of the story is one Meno Argenti, as nasty a villain as you are ever likely to meet in your travels through novel-land. He is the boss of The Concession, the world wide distributors of the emeralds mined in Colombia. A ruthless sort of fellow who operates a hog farm so he can feed his enemies to the ever hungry hogs, he also has peculiar sexual habits which we won't discuss further here.

Nevertheless, despite - or maybe because of - the oddities of the characters, this reader found the confused and dangerous trail of Lillian and Joe as they stumble through the mountains of Colombia or enjoy the jet set high life, compulsive reading.

W. W.

IRISH GHOST STORIES. Edited by Joseph Hone. Panther Granada. 99p.

While the blurb on the cover - ten shivers of sheer fright, ten screams of horror - may not have been exactly what this reviewer felt, these are ten good stories. With such writers as Jennifer Johnston, John McGahern, Brian Moore and William Trevor in the company this is what would be expected. With the other six they wrote their tales especially for this collection, and their contributions are up to their normal very high standards. Brian Moore contrasts a man of the world with his simple housekeeper whose premonitions could be believed in. A country priest who has always lived with death is the subject chosen by McGahern, and beautifully told. William Trevor has a fine perceptive story of a boy who never belonged in his family, but eventually found peace in a strange way, while Ms. Johnston presents a girl with much the same problem, and who returns home in the end. The other contributers are Terence de Vere White, Joseph Hone, Tom Crowe, Desmond Hogan, Robert Bernen and Peter Somerville-Large.

D. O'S.

THE QUEST FOR AN HEIR. Con Costello. Tower Books. papercovers: £3.85 incl. vat.

Every student who passes through Maynooth College is familiar with the Dunboyne Institution, but the story of the establishment of the House is not widely known. In 1763 Archdeacon John Butler of Ardmayle in Co. Tipperary, third son of the baron of Dunboyne, was nominated as Roman Catholic bishop of Cork; apart from his relationship to the archbishop of Cashel, the new bishop was remarkable for his youth - thirty-three, on which the papal brief commented, and for the fact that he had but one eye. For twenty three years he occupied the See, during which time many new churches and convents were opened in the diocese. Then, in 1786, due to a succession of family deaths, he inherited the title of Lord Dunboyne and was faced with the dilemma of continuity of line or continued celibacy. A petition to the Pope for a dispensation to marry was refused, so the bishop decided to marry, which he did, and he conformed to the Established Church. Both of his actions were sensational, and, alas, futile. He did not produce an heir, and on his deathbed petitioned to be received back into the Catholic Church. In his Will he left his family home, Dunboyne Castle, to Maynooth, and this disposal of the ancestral castle led to a long court case. Lord Kilwarden was the judge, and it finally had to be decided if the bishop died a protestant or a catholic. The priest who attended him on his deathbed refused to break the confessional seal, and was sent to jail. Maynooth did benefit from the Will, and so an Institution for the higher education of students for the priesthood, was established.

Even after death the bishop continued to cause controversy. Why was his funeral secret, and where was he buried? Had there been a secret child from the union? Lady Dunboyne survived the bishop by sixty years, and left behind a family when she married again. Both her ghost and that of the bishop are said to have been seen. But there is a lot more to the story, and it is all revealed in Comdt. Con Costello's well told tale, which first appeared in 1978, but is now available in paper covers.

L. O'B.

THE BOER WAR. Thomas Pakenham. Weidenfeld and Nicholson. £10.00.

The causes of the Boer War are difficult to sort out, but it is certain that the goldmines had a lot to do with them. The population mix as in so many other local wars was a major factor too. It was inexpedient to have a major non-British group like the Boers in control of such gold-rich countries as the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Oddly enough the native Africans did not enter into the argument at all except in as far as their wages might be further reduced in the event of a victory for the Rand gold-bugs: Beit, Rhodes and Wernher. To say that the Africans are now the core of the argument is to anticipate the events of today by some eighty years.

The build-up towards the war was obvious enough; Boer victories at Majuba (1880), and against Jameson at Doorknop (1886) had already stirred up the necessary element of jingoism in Britain. As Smuts put it, the Jameson raid was the real declaration of war and the interval until 1899 was merely a period of preparation by both sides. Milner's appointment as British High Commissioner at the Cape made it a virtual certainty that Jameson would ride again and that the question of who would rule the Transvaal would be finally resolved. As Druger said, with tears in his eyes, after the abortive conference at Bloemfontein: It is my country you want. As was their wont the British believed the war would be over by Christmas.

This is the broad scenario of events on which author Thomas Pakenham has built his great history of the Boer War. He spent almost ten years researching and refining the great mass of material, old and new, that lay half-discovered and half forgotten over the last eighty years. It is a decade well spent. For it is a very readable, very scholarly and very thorough piece of work. It is a work that the military student, in particular, will welcome. Almost anywhere he dips, he will find useful examples of the various facets of warfare: sieges at Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith, and the besieged commanders: Baden-Powell, Kekewich and White. Or the awful consequences of White's neglect of Buller's basic strategy: 'Do not go north of the Tugela', resulting in the siege of Ladysmith and the wrecking of the whole strategy of the War. He may study the contrasting leadership of Roberts and Kitchener and look at the apprenticeship years of later Great War leaders such as Henry Wilson, Allenby, Hamilton and French. In the opposite camp, he can look at another type of leader and other types of tactics exemplified by Cronje, De Wet, Botha and De La Rey.

One of the great services the author has done is to rehabilitate Buller's reputation from the partisan picture painted of him by Leo Amery in *The Times* History of the War. It was popular hitherto to compare the moral strength of Roberts with the weakness and vacillation of Buller. Ian Hamilton was a prime detractor of Buller; Hamilton suffered a somewhat similar fate himself after the debacle of Gallipoli. The book also exposes the difference between Britain's professed aims of fighting for improvement in the status of the Africans and their sacrifice to the selfish aims of Milner and indeed of the Boer leaders.

At the end of the day the population mix still favoured the Boers. Though they lost the war, Smuts and Botha swept to electoral victory over the loyalist party. The Africans were again ignored but the author brings the wheel full circle with a quote from Milner: 'There is only one way out of the trouble in South Africa; reform or war. And of the two, war is more likely'. Milner's grim phrase is even more relevant today, but as the author puts it: no one expects the war to be over by Christmas.

M. O'D.

"FLING OUR BANNER TO THE WIND" John Horsfall. The Roundwood Press, 1978. pp. 225. £5.25.

The author has published two previous books of war memoirs, covering the Battle of France and The Tunis Campaign. To complete the trilogy this volume relates some experiences of the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Italy, from St. Patricks Day to end of October, 1944.

Much of the narrative comprises the author's personal relations with fellow soldiers (officers usually by christian name or nick name) and his descriptions of numerous engagements fought by his Unit. The sights are rarely trained above that level, except in the case of the Irish Brigade Commander, Brigadier Pat Scott. He was indeed a raspish officer, had one gift, much appreciated by those below, of being particularly disrespectful to those in higher station, military or otherwise. For example (not related in his book) he horrified the Irish Ambassador to the Vatican by pointing out that his was the first Irish Brigade in history which had ever fought on the side of the British (this was true enough, if we omit the Irish Brigade under the Hospitaller Prior Thomas Butler which went out to the siege of Rouen in 1418). Again, in audience with Pope Pius XII in June, conducted with perfect respect and courtesy, the contingent from the Irish Brigade was to be composed only of Catholics, but included among them was a Regimental Sergeant Major, a stout Orangeman, who wore his orange insignia underneath his battledress. This must be the first time in history that the Sash has been blessed by a Pope.

"The toad, beneath the harrow knows".

Lt. Col. Horsfall's history often gives the impression that the conduct of operations by the higher command (excepting only Brigadier Scott) was a G.M.F.U. or regular shambles. This may be true enough of most wars, on both sides. But in The Allied Land Forces in Italy over the period had formations of U.S. Caucasian Americans, Negro Americans, Japanese Americans, British (including Welsh, Irish and Scottish), Free French (mostly Algerian or Senegalese), Poles, Greeks, Brazilians and Indian Army (Moslem and Hindu). To this should be added certain elements of the Italian regular army, - mostly non-combatant for political reasons - and the Italian partisans - very conspicuous with their puffed chests and gaudy ribbons, once the Germans had gone. There was also a Guards Brigade of whom the American Army Commander remarked that they seemed to be fighting more for the record of their different regimental histories rather than for the sacred cause of justice and the liberty of mankind. Here surely was a racial mixture far worse than anything Marlborough had to command in his Netherlands Campaigns, or Wellington at Waterloo. The Commander in Chief, Alexander of Tunis, managed to keep the peace between them, by his prestige, niceness of character and non-interference. But from his high peak, the Field Marshal was not able to instal resolution, experience or brain power into subordinates who lacked such qualities. But in spite of the failures of higher command, as seen from the worm's eyeview, the Allies did win the Campaign by April, 1945, against an enemy which had a more than 20% superiority in numbers and on average much better trained troops.

For the Irish Fusiliers, the final blow came in a four day battle at the end of October, in which they seem to have lost about two thirds of their total strength. Yet for all that, the regiment seemed to have maintained confidence, morale, esprit-de-corps or whatever else it is called, as much in 1945 as in 1939. There is a lesson in this, and a further lesson in the fact that Lt. Col. Horsfall, a Birmingham Protestant, - who at the time disapproved of the visit to the Pope, - should now after nearly thirty-five years be writing with such intense affection about Irish soldiers who by definition should be regarded as alien in race and religion to himself.

This work will, of course, interest all who were there and still survive - probably rather few. It should be of benefit to many 'gentlemen in Ireland now abed', as an illustration of how Irish soldiery were regarded by an outsider under circumstances of rather considerable strain.

P. N. N. S.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MUSTANG. M. J. Hardy, David and Charles, £5.95p.

When the first British Air Mission to the USA first began to visit the US aircraft industry in the Spring of 1938, the scene was a far more cheerful one. That industry was even more depressed than the British industry was prior to the start of its re-armament programme. What was needed to revive a stagnant and ailing American industry was soon to come in the shape of massive orders for new aircraft to equip the depleted squadrons of British and Commonwealth Air Forces. With firm orders from Europe and elsewhere, American factories performed incredible feats of production to meet these requirements. Mock-ups, like that of RAF's Coastal Command Hudson, were produced in a matter of forty eight hours. Orders poured in faster than aircraft factories could fill them. By April 1940, when Norway and Denmark had already fallen, Britain had ordered the staggering total of 11,000 aircraft from the USA with permission from the American Priorities Board to order a further 12,000 machines. THE US had become in Roosevelt's words "the arsenal of democracy".

It was against this background of frantic re-armament that the Mustang fighter had its genisis. In his well researched book, M. J. Hardy traces the history of the Mustang from its conception and birth in 1940, through its long fine record of service stretching right up to the present day. Arguably the greatest fighter to see service in the Second World War, the aircraft took less than six months to go from drawing board to its first flight which took place on 26th Oct. 1940, and that included a delay of six weeks waiting for the Allison V engine to arrive from its factory. This was no mean achievement considering the number of new features such as laminar wings, which this aircraft boasted. In Nov. 1941, the RAF saw the first production aircraft arrive at Speke, Liverpool for its British trials. Equipping of RAF Squadrons started in May 1942 and the aircraft's low rates engine rendered it suitable only for a low level operations such as reconnaissance and short range escort duties. With the fitting of the Merlin-Packard engine the aircraft showed its potential as a fighter and long range escort fighter. Up to that time daylight bombing missions to Continental Europe were hazardous operations and loss rates of ten per cent of bomber formations due to enemy fighter action were common. With the arrival of the Merlin powered Mustang on the scene, aircraft like the B.17 Fortress and B.26 Liberators stood a far better chance of completing their raids and returning safely to base. Round trips of 1100 miles into the heart of Germany were completed regularly by Mustangs operating out of England. The sight of American fighters over Belin for the first time prompted Reichmarshall Goering to comment later "the day I saw American fighters over Belin was the day I realised that Germany would lose the war". The Truman Senate War Investigating Committee described the Mustang as "the most aerodynamically perfect pursuit plane in existence". High praise indeed, but well deserved by the designers of this brilliant aircraft which set new standards of-excellence in design.

The author describes in detail the various versions of the Mustang, up to and including the twin Mustang. Their service in the various theatres during W.W. 2 and their later service in Korea, Sinai and the "Football War" of South America, are set out. A long section deals with the aircraft's post-war racing career. Many individual exploits by notable pilots in war and peacetime lend a touch of human interest. The story is one of achievement against great odds and the book is a must for anyone with even a mild interest in the history of aviation. This pioneering epic of the air comes complete with index and bibliography as well as over a hundred photographic illustrations. Not always the lightest of reading, this is as good an account of the proud history of the Mustang as you are ever likely to find. I wonder if the Mustang, which crash-landed in Co. Louth in 1943, and was subsequently repaired by the Air Corps at Baldonnel, is still flying for some happy owner - who knows?

M. A. C.

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